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Mahathir-Information

UMNO TO CONTINUE WITH ITS INFORMATION SESSIONS OVER ANWAR'S SACKING

KUCHING, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Umno will continue holding information sessions over the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the government and the party.

He said that such sessions could be held behind closed doors following a gag ordered by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on public discussion pertaining to the four corruption charges faced by Anwar.

"We are not allowed to make public statements but we can still do so behind closed doors," he told a news conference at the Kuching International Airport before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a one-day official visit.

Dr Mahathir said that the government respects the decision of the High Court and Anwar's supporters should also abide by the ruling.

"Looks like his (Anwar's) lawyer has curbed our freedom of speech but we respect the ruling. If the judge says that we cannot make public statement, then will will not," he said.

He however questioned the reason for lawyers representing Anwar to seek to curb freedom of speech when they had been harping on the issue.

At the High Court proceedings yesterday, counsel Raja Aziz Addruse said that people in high office had been expressing their views in public concerning the merits of the charges faced by Anwar.

Dr Mahathir said that the government also found that they (Anwar's side) had been talking to the foreign media which were biased and expressing only their side of the story.

"The foreign media never have any consideration for us. That is what they want," he said.

Asked on the appointment of a new Deputy Prime Minister to replace Anwar, he said he was leaving it to the Umno Supreme Council.

-- BERNAMA

CJ OPP RM